

# Civil & Religious INTELLIGENCER.

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SANGERFIELD, N. Y.—MONDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1816.

[Vol. I.]

Extracts from the PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE transmitted to both Houses of Congress, Dec. 3, 1816, by Mr. Todd, his Secretary.

I have the satisfaction to state, generally, that we remain in amity with foreign powers.

An occurrence has, indeed, taken place in the Gulf of Mexico, which if sanctioned by the Spanish government, may make an exception as to that power. According to the report of our naval commander, on that station, one of our public armed vessels was attacked by an overpowering force under a Spanish commander, and the American flag, with the officers and crew insulted, in a manner calling for prompt reparation. This has been demanded. In the mean time, a frigate and smaller vessel of war have been ordered into that Gulf, for the protection of our commerce. It would be improper to omit, that the representatives of his Catholic Majesty, in the United States, lost no time in giving the strongest assurances, that no hostile order could have emanated from his government, & that it will be as ready to do as to expect, whatever the nature of the case, and the friendly relations of the two countries, shall be found to require.

The posture of our affairs with Algiers, at the present moment, is not known. The Dey drawing pretexts from circumstances for which the United States were not answerable, addressed a letter to this government, declaring the treaty last concluded with him, to have been annulled by our violation of it; and presenting, as the alternative, war, or a renewal of the former treaty, which stipulated, among other things, an annual tribute. The answer, with an explicit declaration that the United States preferred war to tribute, required his recognition & observance of the treaty last made, which abolishes tribute and the slavery of our captured citizens. The result of the answer has not been received. Should he renew his warfare on our commerce, we rely on the protection it will find in our naval force actually in the Mediterranean.

With the other Barbary states, our affairs have undergone no change.

The Indian tribes within our limits appear also disposed to remain at peace.—From several of them purchases of lands have been made, particularly favorable to the wishes and security of our frontier set-

tlements; as well as to the general interests of the nation. In some instances, the titles, though not supported by due proof, and clashing those of one tribe with the claims of another, have been extinguished by double purchases; the benevolent policy of the United States preferring the augmented expense to the hazard of doing injustice, or to the enforcement of justice, against a feeble and untutored people, by means involving or threatening an effusion of blood. I am happy to add, that the tranquility which has been restored among the tribes themselves, as well as between them and our own population, will favor the resumption of the work of civilization, which had made an encouraging progress among some tribes; and that the facility is increasing, for extending that divided and individual ownership, which exists now in moveable property only, to the soil itself; and of thus establishing in the culture and improvement of it, the true foundation for a transit from the habits of the savage, to the arts and comforts of social life.

As a subject of the highest importance to the national welfare, I must, again, earnestly recommend to the consideration of Congress, a re-organization of the Militia, on a plan which will form it into classes, according to the periods of life more and less adapted to military services. An ancient militia is authorized and contemplated by the constitution, and required by the spirit and safety of free government.

Congress will call to mind, that no adequate provision has yet been made for the uniformity of weights and measures, also contemplated by the constitution. The great utility of a standard, fixed in its nature, and foundation on the easy rule of decimal proportions, is sufficiently obvious.

The importance which I have attached to the establishment of a University within this District, on a scale and for objects worthy of the American nation, induces me to renew my recommendation of it to the favorable consideration of Congress.

I submit to the wisdom of Congress, whether a more enlarged revision of the criminal code be not expedient, for the purpose of mitigating, in certain cases, penalties which were adopted into it antecedent to experiments and examples which justify and recommend a more lenient policy.



The United States having been the first to prohibit the importation of slaves and by punishing their citizens participating in the traffic, cannot but be gratified at the progress made by concurrent efforts of other nations, towards a general suppression of so great an evil. They must feel, at the same time, the greater solicitude to give the fullest efficacy to their own regulations. With that view, the interposition of Congress appears to be required, by the violations and evasions, which, it is suggested, are chargeable on unworthy citizens who mingle in the slave trade under foreign flags, and with foreign ports and by collusive impositions of slaves into the United States through adjoining ports and territories.

To these recommendations, I add, for the consideration of congress the expediency of a re-modification of the judiciary establishment, and of an additional department in the Executive branch of the government.

The extent and variety of Executive business also accumulating with the progress of our country, and its growing population, call for an additional department.

In directing the legislative attention to the state of the finances, it is a subject of gratification to find that, even within the short period which has elapsed since the return of peace, the revenue has far exceeded all the current demands upon the treasury, that during the year 1816, the actual receipts of revenue at the treasury, amount to about the sum of \$ 47,000,000, that payments at the Treasury, will amount to about the sum of 38,000,000; and that, consequently, at the close of the year, there will be a surplus in the treasury of about the sum of 9,000,000 of dollars.

There is only wanting to the fiscal prosperity of the government, the restoration of an uniform medium of exchange. But for the interest of the community at large, as well as for the purposes of the treasury, it is essential that the nation should possess a currency of equal value, credit and use, wherever it may circulate. The constitution has entrusted congress exclusively, with the power of creating and regulating a currency of that description; the Bank of the United States has been organized under auspices the most favorable, and cannot fail to be an important auxiliary to those measures.

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TRENTON, Nov. 25.

**HIGHWAY ROBBERY**—One day, last week, a Frenchman, travelling from this place to Princeton, was enticed into a piece of wood, by two persons whom he met, who offered to convey him on his way in a waggon, provided he went with them to the opposite road: but after getting him into the wood, fell upon him, robbed him of

his money, 20 or 30 dollars, and stripped him of the best part of his wearing apparel. No discovery of the robbers, that we learn, has yet been made.

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NEW-YORK, Nov. 23.

On Saturday evening, at the early hour of six o'clock young Mr Le Roy M'Evers, in passing down Courtlandt-street, at the corner of Greenwich street was accosted by a man of genteel appearance, who demanded his money; and on Mr. M'Evers' refusal, he snatched at his watch-chain, but did not succeed in getting it. Mr M'Evers' made a blow at him with his stick, when the fellow ran off. It is to be regretted that this man was not apprehended, as it is believed he is the Person who was concerned in all the late robberies and his apprehension might lead to a detection of the whole gang.

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The Directors of the Bank of the United States have appointed JOHN SARGEANT, Esq. a member of their board, to proceed to London for the purpose of negotiating for 10,000,000 of Spanish dollars, offered by a commercial house in that city. Mr. Sargeant will take his departure as soon as he can make the necessary arrangement.

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From the Patterson Bee.

**MELANCHOLY OCCURRENCE**—On Saturday morning the 15th inst. we were called to witness the most distressing scene, and the most awful sight we ever beheld, or even heard of: the following are the particulars.—

Mrs. Melvina Hopper, wife of William G. Hopper, of Ramapough, Franklin township, Bergen county, (N. J.) left her bed between the hours of 11 in the evening of Friday, and 4 in the morning of Saturday, stripped herself stark naked, and left the house unobserved by any of the family.—At about 4 her absence was discovered; search was immediately made, but in vain. The neighbors were alarmed, and at daylight the search was renewed, when at about 8 or 9 o'clock, the body was discovered, at the corner of a woods, near a fence, a short distance from the road leading from Ramapough to Pompton, and about a quarter of a mile from her former residence, sprawled out and in the same naked condition in which she had left the house.—suffice it to say, she was dead? A jury of inquest was immediately summoned; but no other marks of violence were discoverable than that her hair was entirely torn from off her head, and thrown on the opposite side of the fence on which she lay, supposed to be done in a fit of insanity.—The jury reported, her death was occasioned the inclemency of the weather and the hand of God.